

Re. : Amendment and Response to Office Action Mailed March 16, 2007
Appl. No. : 10/692,141
Filed : October 23, 2003

II. REMARKS

Claims 27-30 and 32-35 are currently pending and the Office Action rejected Claims 27-30 and 32-35. By the foregoing amendments, Applicants amended Claims 27 and 32 to further clarify, more clearly define and/or broaden the claimed invention, and expedite receiving a notice of allowance. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(f), no new matter is introduced by these amendments. Applicants believe that Claims 27-30 and 32-35 are now in condition for allowance.

Please note that Applicants' remarks are presented in the order in which the issues were raised in the Office Action for the convenience and reference of the Examiner. In addition, Applicants request that the Examiner carefully review any references discussed below to ensure that Applicants' discussion and understanding of the references, if any, is consistent with the Examiner's. Further, the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any particular reference and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and that reference.

A. First Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Office Action rejected Claims 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0233967 by Lin. The Office Action states that, regarding Claims 27 and 28, Lin teaches a table with a blow molded tabletop (see Lin, paragraph 0017 "table plate 1 is made by a blow molding method") with first and second leg assemblies (23) movable between extended and collapsed positions, a support assembly having a first (A) and

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second (D) mounting structures integrally formed in the table top, first and second support members (27), first and second crossbars (26), and a recessed portion (G) formed in the outer surface of the mounting structure and extending through a side wall (as evidenced by line at H) and being disposed generally parallel (the handle is parallel to the table top lower surface) to a lower portion of the table top to form at least part of a handle.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the Lin reference fails to disclose each and every limitation of Claim 27. In order to further clarify, more clearly define and/or broaden the claimed invention, and expedite receiving a notice of allowance, Applicants amended Claim 27. In view of these clarifying amendments, Applicants request that this Section 102(e) rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants amended Claim 27, for example, to provide “a handle integrally formed with the first mounting structure of the support assembly during the blow-molding process as part of a unitary structure, the handle being at least substantially disposed in a side wall of the first mounting structure, the handle being at least substantially formed in a portion of the first mounting structure extending outwardly from a plane that is generally aligned with the lower portion of the table top.” Thus, Claim 27 positively recites that the handle is integrally formed with the first mounting structure of the support assembly during the blow-molding process as part of a unitary structure, the handle is at least substantially disposed in a side wall of the first mounting structure, and the handle is at least substantially formed in a portion of the first mounting structure that extends outwardly from a plane that is generally aligned with the lower portion of the table top.

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The Lin reference, however, does **not** disclose a handle that is integrally formed with a first mounting structure of a support assembly during the blow-molding process as part of a unitary structure. In addition, the Lin reference does **not** disclose a handle that is at least substantially disposed in a side wall of the first mounting structure. The Lin reference further does **not** disclose a handle that is at least substantially formed in a portion of the first mounting structure extending outwardly from a plane that is generally aligned with the lower portion of the table top.

Accordingly, the Lin reference does not disclose each and every element of amended Claim 27. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that this Section 102(e) rejection of Claim 27 be withdrawn. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 28-30 are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 27. Therefore, Claims 27-30 should now be allowable.

B. Second Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Office Action rejected Claims 32-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Lin reference. The Office Action stated, regarding Claims 32 and 33, Lin teaches a table with a blow molded tabletop (see Lin, paragraph 0017 “table plate 1 is made by a blow molding method”) with first and second leg assemblies (23) movable between extended and collapsed positions, a support assembly having a first (A) and second (D) mounting structures integrally formed in the table top, first and second support members (27), first and second crossbars (26), and a recessed portion (G) formed in the lower surface of the tabletop and disposed between the

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first mounting structure and the table top (the handle is between the mounting structure and the lower surface across from the handle) to form at least part of a handle.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the Lin reference fails to disclose each and every limitation of Claim 32. In order to further clarify, more clearly define and/or broaden the claimed invention, and expedite receiving a notice of allowance, Applicants amended Claim 32. In view of these clarifying amendments, Applicants request that this Section 102(e) rejection be withdrawn.

For example, Applicants amended Claim 32 to provide “a handle integrally formed with the first mounting structure of the support assembly during the blow-molding process as part of a unitary structure, the handle being at least substantially disposed between a lower portion of the first mounting structure and a lower portion of the table top, the handle being at least substantially disposed in a portion of the first mounting structure extending outwardly from a plane that is generally aligned with the lower portion of the table top.” Thus, Claim 32 positively recites that the handle is integrally formed with the first mounting structure of the support assembly during the blow-molding process as part of a unitary structure, the handle is at least substantially disposed between a lower portion of the first mounting structure and a lower portion of the table top, and the handle is at least substantially disposed in a portion of the first mounting structure that extends outwardly from a plane that is generally aligned with the lower portion of the table top.

In contrast, the Lin reference does **not** disclose a handle that is integrally formed with the first mounting structure of the support assembly during the blow-molding process as part of a unitary structure. The Lin reference also does **not** disclose a handle that is at least substantially

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disposed between a lower portion of the first mounting structure and a lower portion of the table top. Additionally, the Lin reference does not disclose a handle that is at least substantially disposed in a portion of a first mounting structure that extends outwardly from a plane that is generally aligned with the lower portion of the table top.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this Section 102(e) rejection be withdrawn because the Lin reference does not disclose each and every element of Claim 32. In addition, Applicants submit that Claims 33-35 are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 32. Therefore, Claims 32-35 should now be in condition for immediate allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that Claims 27-30 and 32-35 are allowable over the cited references and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that a Notice of Allowance be promptly issued.


If any further impediments to allowance of this application remain, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone so that these remaining issues may be promptly resolved.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, which have not otherwise been paid, to Deposit Account No. 23-3178. If any additional extension of time is required, which have not otherwise been requested, please consider this a petition therefore and charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-3178.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 18, 2007

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